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LOS ANGELES TIMES
12 MAY 1981

He Will Reportedly Face Spying Charges

U.S. Private Pilot Being Held in Angolan Prison

SEABROOK, Md. (UPI) — An American private pilot has been held in prison in Angola since his single-engine plane landed on a road in the western African country, apparently by accident, 14 weeks ago.

The American, Geoffrey H. Taylor, 31, was placed in São Paulo Prison in Luanda, the capital, according to Jim Overly, head of the Angolan desk at the State Department. "We know that he is in good health," Overly said.

On a trip through Africa last month, Overly and other officials asked Angolan Foreign Ministry aides to see Taylor and requested his release, but there was no response. Italian diplomats confirmed that he is being held.

Last week, a magazine in Mozambique — like Angola a former Portuguese colony, that now has a Marxist government — reported that the Angolan authorities are planning to charge Tyler with being a CIA spy and helping pro-Western guerrillas, who are seeking to overthrow the Marxist Angolan government.

Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R-Santa Monica), a member of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa who was asked by Tyler's family here to help, said the CIA assured him that Tyler had no connection with the agency.

Tyler had been living in Lakeland, Fla., and was working as a pilot for Globe Aero Ltd., which ferries light aircraft to overseas purchasers. He had made 26 previous ferry trips to South Africa.